

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05 /056 W
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O 082134Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6575
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 01176

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: TORONTO NEWSPAPER JOINS COSSITT/NATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIR

REF: A) OTTAWA 1175; B) OTTAWA 1138

1. GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION OF PLUGGING NATIONAL SECURITY
LEAKS BY ATTEMPTING TO FORCE MP TOM COSSITT TO RETURN
TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS (REF B) WERE COMPLICATED BY ARTICLE
APPEARING IN MARCH 7 ISSUE OF TORONTO SUN. ARTICLE,
WRITTEN BY PETER WORTHINGTON, EDITOR OF THE SUN, CITED
16 INSTANCES OF ALLEGED SOVIET ESPIONAGE AND BROADLY
HINTED THAT SOURCE WAS TOP SECRET DOCUMENT ENTITLED
"CANADIAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE
SERVICES", DATED MARCH 24, 1976. THIS IS DOCUMENT WHICH
SOLICITOR GENERAL BLAIS ORDERED RETURNED BY COSSITT AND
WHICH COSSITT DENIED HE HAD (REF B).

2. SOME OF ARTICLE'S ALLEGATIONS WERE SAME AS THOSE MADE
BY COSSITT, E.G. ATTEMPTS BY NOVOSTI CORRESPONDENT
ALEXANDER PALLADIN TO CULTIVATE TWO SPECIAL ASSISTANTS
OF FORMER PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER BUD DRURY AND THAT KGB
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WAS ATTEMPTING TO USE RUSSIAN-OWNED CANADIAN COMPANIES
AS ESPIONAGE FRONTS.

3. ARTICLE CONTAINS, HOWEVER, ALLEGATIONS NOT MADE BY
COSSITT. THESE INCLUDE CLAIM THAT RUSSIANS OBTAINED A
DEEPWATER SUBMERSIBLE WITH CLASSIFIED, PRESSURE-RESISTANT
STEEL HULL BY SHIPPING COMPONENT PARTS TO SOVIET UNION

THROUGH SWITZERLAND; CLAIM THAT A CANADIAN SCIENTIST, COMPROMISED BY AN INTOURIST GUIDE ON RUSSIAN VISIT, TURNED OVER HIGHLY CLASSIFIED LASER MATERIAL FROM NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL; ALLEGATION THAT CANADIAN NON-COMMISIONED OFFICER STATIONED IN MOSCOW HAD BUGGED CANADIAN EMBASSY ON BEHALF OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES; CLAIM THAT A MONTREAL BUSINESSMAN HAD BEEN PROVIDED WITH FRANCHISE FOR YAK-40 AIRCRAFT IN RETURN FOR HIS PURCHASING AND RESHIPPING TO SOVIET UNION A HUGHES 500 HELICOPTER.

4. COMMENT: SENIOR TORY MP TOLD EMBOFFS MARCH 7 THAT TORONTO SUN AND ONE OTHER NEWSPAPER POSSESSED ESSENTIALLY SAME MATERIAL THAT COSSITT ALLEGEDLY HOLDS. IF GOVERNMENT CHOOSES TO PROSECUTE COSSITT UNDER OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, IT PRESUMABLY MUST ALSO MOVE AGAINST NEWSPAPERS. THIS WOULD DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM COSSITT, WHO IS NOT GOOD MARTYR MATERIAL FOR TORIES, AND WOULD RAISE EXPLOSIVE ISSUE OF PROTECTION OF MEDIA SOURCES.

5. GOVERNMENT HAS, IN EFFECT, CONFIRMED ESSENCE OF COSSITT'S CHARGES ABOUT SOVIET ACTIVITIES BUT WITHOUT SPECIFICITY ON DETAILS. SOLICITOR GENERAL BLAIS HAS, HOWEVER, DENIED COSSITT CLAIMS THAT AIR FRANCE AND RENAULT AUTOMOBILE COMPANY HAVE BEEN USED AS CHANNEL FOR FUNDS TO BE USED IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. BLAIS
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HAS ALSO REFUSED TO COMMENT ON COSSITT'S ALLEGATIONS THAT CUBAN ARMS WERE BEING SHIPPED INTO CANADA FOR USE BY QUEBEC TERRORISTS.

6. RELEVANT TEXT OF SUN ARTICLE CONTAINED IN REF A.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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